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To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/9/02 10:54am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

There is no settlement of any kind that can be considered fair for Microsoft. All aspects of the DOJ case against Microsoft are so unjust that I could sit here and generate a book, rather than a simple email message (I'll save the book for a later time). Instead, I would rather express what I believe is one of the key reasons why any settlement of any kind is unjust for Microsoft Corp.

AOL, which has been a key Internet Service Provider (ISP) for years, has held the largest market share within the industry, more than any other ISP, including MSN (the Microsoft Network). Yet AOL went whining to the government that they were being monopolized by Microsoft, and now Microsoft is having unjust legalities imposed upon them, not because they are a monopoly, but because there is the ?potential? that one day they ?may become? a monopoly.

Several years ago, I was a CompuServe user. Then (before AOL ever went running to the government) I switched to AOL. I installed their product on my computer and used AOL as my ISP for just over a month. They frequently advertised about being the most user-friendly ISP around. A month is all I could stand. They were awful. Their software always blew up on my computer and their tech support service was nearly incompetent. For example, 3 of their techs said the problem was my computer, not their software. So I bought another computer and installed the AOL software again. The same problems. After trying NetZero and AT&T, I eventually found MSN to be superior to them all.

Microsoft is a serious company and a serious competitor. As the old saying goes, ?if you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen?. But apparently, today's new saying is, ?if you can't stand the heat, go running to the government?. AOL whining is what brought this situation to where it is today. Microsoft faces these settlements, not because it was being an unfair competitor, but because they are a competitor in the truest sense.

Hopefully the government won't eventually ?break the back? of one of the greatest technology corporations this world has every seen, cause if they do, then we might get stuck with crap like AOL.

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